

Campbell relies on good communication

Editor's note: Three seats are open this year on the Farmington City Council with three incumbents and two challengers vying for those seats. The top two vote-getters will earn four-year terms, and the third place finisher, a two-year term. Today we focus on challenger Arnold Campbell. Other candidates will be profiled in future stories.

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Ever want to raise an issue at a council meeting but were too nervous?

As a longtime council watcher, Arnold Campbell understands your discomfort and, as a former councilman, believes a key role of the city board, and its members, is to put you at ease.

"Sometimes people are a nervous wreck to come and speak to council," said the 46-year-old Birchwood

Street resident and quality associate with Ford Motor. "The object is to make them feel comfortable."

Campbell plans to do just that as he canvasses the city over the next few weeks, knocking on doors and talking issues with his neighbors and other residents. Campbell's personable approach and focus on good communication helped him oust a veteran councilman in 1985 to win his first term on the council, even though he lost in a second bid for council in 1989.

"I've won and I've lost, and it hurts a lot more when you lose," he said. This time around, Campbell is involving more people in his campaign, asking them to send endorsement cards. And, he believes his position is special because he is the only candidate who lives on the far south side of the city.

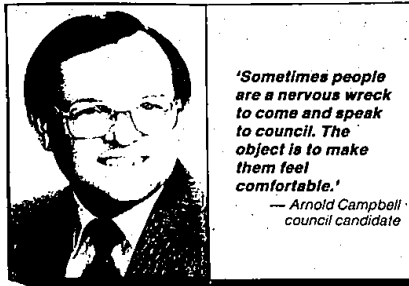
Major issues facing Farmington residents include getting the city back in shape after the extensive sewer and road work, which has "greatly inconvenienced our resi-

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dents," and facing the challenges of the current economic climate and cutbacks in state and federal aid. "It is very likely more and more pressure will be placed on our local officials to maintain... services and programs in a cost-conscious manner," Campbell said.

The Livonia native became involved in local politics shortly after he moved to the city 13 years ago. He was active in the Farmington Meadows Homeowners Association, where he served as president for three years. As a governmental affairs representative for the group, he began attending city council meetings, and the spark was lit.

His eagerness to approach people and delve into problems is reflected



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council candidate

in his position with Ford Motor, where he has worked for 19 years. There, he analyzes problems with various cars and is the go-between with the engineering division to correct them. Also, he deals with direct

comments from customers through marketing studies.

"If elected to this office, I become an employee of the residents of Farmington, and they become my customers," he said. "Therefore, my

goal is to provide customer satisfaction in every decision which I must make.

"Generally, I enjoy working with people," he added. If elected, he would continue his work with groups like the Farmington Area PTA Council and the Farmington Area Goodfellows. "You just have to understand that these things come with the community. And I enjoy it."

Campbell, who's married and has two sons, has served on the Farmington Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Economic Development Corporation; was involved with a five-year library study; and is involved with South Farmington Baseball, the Farmington Soccer Club and scouting. He also serves on Farmington's 125th Founding Celebration Committee.

Campbell said he is willing to commit his time and energy because "I totally believe in Farmington and obtain great personal satisfaction from serving my community."

Young write-in promises he can do the job

Editor's note: As the Nov. 5 city council election draws near, the Observer will be talking with the seven candidates and letting you know who they are, what they think they can do for the city, and how they stand on issues.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Andrew Raczkowski is 22 years old and a write-in candidate in the Farmington Hills City Council race. But he doesn't want voters to be afraid or distrustful of his youth.

He says he can do the job, if elected to one of four open seats on the city council. "I have a liberal heart and a conservative mind. Both of these will have equal value in my decisions."

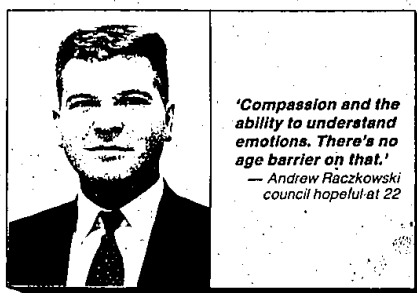
Raczkowski, who lives with his parents, grew up in Farmington Hills, graduated from Harrison High School, and will start graduate school in November.

"I see a future in politics for myself," said the son of Polish immigrants. "I'm interested in making a positive change in the community."

At a recent public debate between the seven candidates, Raczkowski described himself as a "breath of fresh air." He said he represents "less taxes, less spending, less government and more freedom."

And no, Raczkowski doesn't apologize for his young age. He believes he can work and help residents — with families, mortgages and big tax bills — even though he is single and looking for work.

"These are all problems of life," he said. "The problem is not empathizing with them (residents). The problem is understanding them. I try



'Compassion and the ability to understand emotions. There's no age barrier on that.'

— Andrew Raczkowski
council hopeful at 22

to put myself — not in their shoes — but in their thought patterns, emotionally."

"Compassion and the ability to understand emotions. There's no age barrier on that."

RACZKOWSKI says that the biggest problem he sees with the current city council is "incumbency. They (council members) have entrenched themselves. They have seriously distanced themselves from citizens. They are more interested in securing jobs as council members than listening to the citizens."

He'd also like to see a little more straight-forward talk — and far less politicking — on the city council, which should have limited terms, he said.

He feels knowing how the system works has nothing to do with serving the public. "I don't think it is an issue of learning. You're there to make a

decision and serve your constituency. You're not there to learn the system and play politics."

The recycling fee is the big issue Raczkowski says faces the city and candidates. It's also the issue where the political newcomer made his first public appearance before the city council and on cable television.

Raczkowski had already announced his candidacy before the latest round of talks erupted on the recycling fee. He's a write-in candidate, however, because he confused the deadline for submitting nominating petitions to the city clerk.

Raczkowski, who said he had enough signatures for the petitions, was conducting a raffle for campaign contributions while collecting signatures. The raffle, by the way, Raczkowski said, is a legal method for raising campaign money.

As for the recycling fee, he agrees

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wholeheartedly with Patrick Anderson, an economist and vice president of governmental affairs for Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance in Farmington Hills. But Raczkowski makes it clear he is not being put up as a candidate by Anderson and insurance company president Richard Headlee.

BUT HE WOULD like a job like Anderson's. And he's still looking. After getting a master's degree in administration and accounting, he's hoping to go to law school. He has two bachelor's degrees from Eastern Michigan University in political sci-

ence and psychology.

While in college, he served as a senator and presidential candidate in student government, as well as a reserve assistance program officer with the Civil Air Patrol.

Raczkowski also is in the U.S. Army Reserve and commissioned as a second lieutenant. He enlisted in the army in 1986 and graduated from basic training and advanced infantry school. He was activated for further training during Operation Desert Shield in Fort Benning, Ga.

He describes himself as very patriotic. "My parents came from Poland with only the shirts on their backs. They achieved the American dream. They instilled a work ethic in me. They've instilled patriotism in me."

In addition to the recycling fee, Raczkowski says financial responsibility and library expansion are

among the top issues facing the community.

If inflation is 6 percent, the city budget just goes up the same amount, Raczkowski said. Still, he would like to see more financial support for the police and fire departments.

He believes city officials should scrutinize costs more and make cuts. Raczkowski would like to see more competition between city departments to reduce waste and costs. "If they don't stop, we're going to keep increasing government."

Raczkowski also believes the Farmington Community Library should be expanded at its existing 12 Mile Road site. He's not in favor of merging the community library with the library at Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge.

"I see a lot of problems with that. That would ostracize a lot of elderly people from using a campus-based library. The student would be the favorable user."

How to vote for write-in candidate

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Spell it correctly or it won't count as a vote.

That's what you have to do if you decide to cast your ballot for political newcomer and write-in candidate Andrew Raczkowski in the Nov. 5 race for four seats on the Farmington Hills City Council.

"Legally, it's supposed to be spelled exactly right," said Farmington Hills City Clerk Kathy Dornan.

The other six candidates seeking election or re-election to the city council will have their names on the punchcard ballot. To vote for them,

you punch the ballot according to their names. But to vote for Raczkowski, you have to do it a bit differently.

To designate that you are voting for Raczkowski, you must actually write his name on the secrecy envelope of the punchcard ballot. You must also designate the position for which you are casting your ballot.

RACZKOWSKI SAID he is having stickers with his name made so voters don't have to bother writing and possibly misspelling his name on the secrecy envelope. If you misspell his name, the city clerk's staff is required to throw out the vote.

You can only vote for four candidates. If you punch four names on

your ballot and then either write-in Raczkowski's name or put the sticker on the secrecy envelope, you've voided your ballot. The city clerk's staff cannot process votes with four punches and one write-in.

"In a sense, they have overvoted," Dornan said.

If you are voting for him, do not put a Raczkowski sticker on the punchcard or the booklet in the voting booth, which is the guide for voting your ballot.

If you put the sticker on the punchcard, your vote — for any of the candidates — will not be counted. And if you put the sticker on the booklet, your vote will not be counted.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

● GIRL INJURED

An 11-year-old girl was hospitalized last week following a traffic accident in which she was hit by a car and flung off of her bike.

The incident occurred at 6:43 p.m. on Sept. 30.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, the 11-year-old and a 12-year-old friend were riding their bicycles southbound on a Farmington Road sidewalk when the 11-year-old attempted to cross Nine Mile Road. A car traveling eastbound had the green light and could not stop in time, hitting the girl broadside. The

driver struck the girl, throwing her from the bicycle.

At the scene, the girl appeared alert and complained of pain to her right hip. Deputy director of public safety Gary Goss said the girl was listed in fair condition in the pediatric unit at William Beaumont Hospital.

● GARBAGE FIRE

Farmington Hills firefighters extinguished a fire on a Waste Management Inc. garbage truck on Middlebelt Tuesday morning, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

When firefighters arrived at the scene the rear storage area of the truck was smoking. Firefighters extinguished the fire and part of garbage load of the truck was dropped

out and extinguished. No dollar damage was estimated.

● BICYCLIST HIT

A 17-year Farmington Hills man was injured by a hit-and-run driver at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday near the Farmington YMCA driveway, on Farmington Road north of 12 Mile, according to Farmington Hills traffic police.

Charles Firment was hit when a car left the YMCA driveway at night without lights on. When the car struck Firment, the driver fled immediately. The car is described as a dark-colored mid-sized sedan. The car would have damage to the right side view mirror.

Anyone with information regarding the car is asked to contact the Farmington Hills police at 474-6181.

FALL'S FASHION

HEADLINES

FEATURE

HATS...HATS...HATS!

At the head of the list of fashion accessories this season... hats. Formal or floppy and fun like these two styles in comfortable cotton corduroy. By Headship Black. navy, grey, red or natural. One size. Driving cap, \$36. Brim hat, \$40.

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